SUBJECTS.

per acre would not only prove to be a great source of hardship to the holders of the *cherikal* lands but also be detrimental to the cause of *cherikal* cultivation. He urged that the *cherikal* lands be treated in accordance with the Rules of Government dated 10th Meenam 1082 and that *cherikal* cultivation be encouraged by assessing the lands at a lower rate, by permitting the ryots to clear off the arrears of taxes within three years, and by getting the lands registered in the names of those applicants who were the holders of them. If no reduction in the assessment was feasible, the Member prayed that the present rate of 3 fs. be not enhanced and that remission be made in regard to the present arrears of tax.

Dewan's reply.—The special *cherikal* rules issued in 1907 were, after careful consideration, cancelled last year All *pandaravagai cherikal* lands are now registered as ordinary *puduval* lands. The Government see no reason to alter this procedure.

5. Reclamations from the Vembanad lake and the *tharavila* on the same.

Mr. Kanaku Narayanan Kesavan (Member, Kottayam taluk) stated that Travancore, though mainly an agricultural country, had to depend on the produce of foreign lands for its rice supply, as was evident from the fact that about 40 lacs of rupees worth of rice and paddy were being imported annually. The Government had been encouraging the development of agriculture in more ways than one. It was during the time of Dewan Rama Row that reclamations from the Vembanad lake were started and the Government encouraged the same by declaring that loans would be given for private enterprise in this direction. As a result of Government Order No. 9842, dated 19th Mithunam 1064, to the effect that lands reclaimed from the Vembanad lake would not be assessed for the first five years, and that for the next five years the assessment would only be at half the rates, many poor cultivators reclaimed lands. But now the *tharavila* for reclamations had been raised from one rupee to Rs. twenty-five. The application of this enhanced rate in the case of lands previously reclaimed, was rather a serious hardship on the cultivators. In his opinion, it did not seem fair that the lands in the same enclosure should have different rates of assessment, one portion under the old and the other under the new rate. It was really a hardship that a ryot who had spent a lot of money for reclaiming land had to pay again Rs. 25 as *tharavila* for getting it registered in his name. He prayed that a reduction in the rate be effected as regards reclaimed lands. The Member then urged the necessity of granting permission to reclaim lands from Vembanad and withdrawing the order prohibiting the same. In conclusion, the Member requested the Government to reconsider the question of *tharavila* on the reclaimed lands and prayed that a concession of *tharavila* at the old rate be

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

granted, at least with regard to the reclamations previous to the order dated 9th May 1909.

Dewan's reply.—His Highness'Government had been feeling, for some time, that the time had come when, in the general public interests, reclamations from rivers, back-waters and canals—especially navigable ones—should be discouraged, not encouraged. Also, it was felt that, in most cases, these reclamations were very valuable, and the old *tharavila* of Rupee one (since raised to Rs. 3)was considered to be far too low for valuable lands like these. Hence the Government passed their order of May 1909 fixing a minimum *tharavila* of Rupees 25 per acre for *all* reclamations from back-waters, since extended to reclamations from rivers and canals also. In view, however, to the some-what different conditions of the Vembanad lake, the Government have recently reduced the minimum *tharavila* on the wet lands reclaimed from this lake from Rs. 25 to Rs. 15 per acre, and it has also been provided that, where the *tharavila* due by a single registry-holder exceeds Rs. 1,000, it may be paid in five equal yearly instalments. In regard to the prohibitory Notification issued, at the instance of the Madras Government, by His Highness' Government, some years ago, against reclamations in certain areas of the Vembanad lake, His Highness' Government have been in communication with the Madras Government for some time, and there is every reason to hope for a substantial modification of the prohibition, such as would permit reclamations in this area more freely than hitherto.

6. The inhabitants of the taluk are generally poor, and in consequence of the levy of *tharavila* at a minimum of Rs. 3 per acre, rising up to Rs. 100, and also of *thadivila* for *puduval* lands, the people do not go in for their registry and foreigners get hold of them for the cultivation of rubber, etc : some remedial measures should be effected to redress these grievances.

Mr. Ouseph Eippa (Member, Thodupuzha taluk) stated that, till 1084, the *tharavila* on one acre was only 7 fanams, but now the minimum *tharavila* has been fixed at Rs. 3 rising to a maximum of Rs. 100. The soil in the Thodupuzha taluk generally was not productive and the cultivators did not get from their lands enough to pay the taxes at the present rate, deducting the expenses of the cultivation, and in consequence, the people did not care to register *puduvals*. The lands had to be auctioned and foreigners got possession of these for the cultivation of rubber. The people, who mainly lived on the produce of the lands, were put to great suffering for want of lands to cultivate, and he prayed therefore that some remedial measures should be effected in this direction.

On being asked by the Dewan to give particular instances in which such grants of lands had been made by the Government to foreigners for the cultivation of rubber, the Member was unable to cite instances.

7. Irregularities and hardships connected with the registry of *puduval* lands and the measures for remedying the same.

Mr. Aiyyappen Narayanan (Member, Kottarakara taluk) represented that most parts of the Pathanapuram and Kottarakara taluks were hilly and major portions of them

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly